(b) No such scheme is under consideration.

Criteria adopted for Selection of items under OGL and SIL

2304. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pursuant to export liberalisation obligations under World Trade Organisation, Government have lifted the curbs on imports of a large-number of common and popular consumer items, and shifted several others from restricted to special import licence list;

(b) if so, the details of such items and to what extent it is adverse balance of trade and criteria adopted in selecting the items for imports under OGL and SIL; and

(c) to what extent the balance of trade is likely to be reduced with the implementation of the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) Review of the Export & Import Policy is a continuous process and changes in it are being made from time to time keeping in view various factors like Multilateral/bilateral trade relations, balance of payment position etc. Changes are made on the basis of representations/ recommendations received from trade and industry or the concerned Ministries/ Departments. Changes in the Export and Import Policy of a few items have recently been made as per details indicated in Ministry of Commerce Notification No. 23(RE-96) dated 10.02.1997, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library. As the notification has been recently issued, it would be too early to make any assessment regarding reduction in the balance of trade on this account.

Favour done to ED (Vigilance) in STC

2305. SHRI NAGMANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present CMD, STC in violation of service regulations allocated responsibilities of foreign offices to ED (Vigilance);

(b) whether it is not an example to keep ED (Vigilance) in good humour as the Director (Personnel) has also been given some additional work confirming that he was not having sufficient work;

(c) the data-wise and country-wise visits of ED (Vigilance) indicating the purpose of visit and if he took his wife on free ticket in violation of Government instructions;

(d) whether the Commerce Ministry supported the above actions of ED (Vigilance) and CMD, STC; and

(e) if not, the action Government propose to take against these officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) The terms of deputation of ED (Vigilance), STC mention about non-transference to another post/promotion to an ex-cadre/higher post by the Company and additional responsibility without prior approval of the Competent Authority in the lending Department. ED (Vigilance), STC has been entrusterd with work relating to administration of the Foreign Offices which has no bearing on trade activities for which Foreign Offices deal directly with the concerned managers. The Central Vigilance Commission has been kept fully apprised by STC of this additional function being performed by ED (Vigilance), STC.

(c) to (e) The following foreign visits were necessitated for carrying out detailed inspection of foreign offices by ED (Vigilance), STC:—

(i) New York	2.1.95—4.1.95
Frankfurt	5.1.95—7.1.95

(ii)	Malaysia	28.8.95—29.8.95
	Singapore	30.8.95—31.8.95
	Australia	2.9.95—4.9.95
(iii)	London	16.9.96—19.9.96
	Frankfurt	22.9.96—24.9.96

The detailed tour notes in respect of all these tours were submitted by ED (Vigilance), STC and were presented to the Board of Directors.

Companion free travel facility was availed by ED (Vigilance), STC in Sept. 1996 as per the scheme extended by the airlines. ED (Vigilance), STC while availing free companion travel facility in Sept. '96 travelled by Air India. The advice of Deptt. of Public Enterprises and Deptt. of Personnel & Training have been requested by the Ministry.

Fact Finding Report in respect of import of Newsprint from Russia

2306. SHRI NAGMANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ED (Vigilance) of STC in his fact finding report dated 6th June 1994, in respect of import of Russian newsprint enclosed a copy of the Customs print-out stating that the same was from a sister agency;

(b) if so, the details of such agency together with its complete particulars and the official status;

(c) if not, the source of the printout giving its complete particulars and the official status of the agency; and

(d) the details regarding copies of communication exchanged between the sister agency and ED (Vigilance)/his nomine and/or receipt of payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Since Special Unit, CBI was holding parallel inquiries into the deal simultaneously to the on-going fact-finding inquiry into the newsprint deal, a copy of the print-out was procured from them by way of sharing of information. The case is still under investigation by CBI.

(d) No formal communication was exchanged.

Working of CMD, STC

2307. SHRI NAGMANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during late 1993 the then CMD, STC on the recommendations of the then Director (Vigilance) STC, lifted the business ban/ blacklisting on M/s. Mayar International and imposed a business ban on another firm M/s. Anika International; and

(b) the complete details of such ban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) STC has intimated that the decision about business ban on M/s. Mayar Marketing Consultants was communicated to them vide its letter dated 29.1.92 under intimation to the Indian branches. The status of business ban on them presently is a subject matter of investigation in the Criminal Case registered by CBI on 5.1.96.

During May, 1992, a case was registered by the CBI against Shri B.K. Shroff, former Director (Finance) of STC, M/s. Finnpap, Finland and M/s. Anika International, New Delhi regarding placing of an order at an exorbitant rate on M/s. Finnpap during December 1991 by exercising 'option' without floating tender.

Pursuant to registration of the above case, the blacklisting of M/s. Anika International, New Delhi and their principals M/s. Finnpap, a Finnish concern, one of STC's long-term suppliers of Glazed Newsprint, was approved by the then CMD on 8.9.92 on the recommendations of the then Director (Vigilance), STC.